

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 162276

EXDIS, FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

1. WE APPRECIATED THE STATUS REPORT ON THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSIONS CONTAINED IN ATHENS 6374. YOUR OVERALL APPROACH IS ACCEPTABLE, AND WE SHARE THE HOPE THAT THE FINAL REMAINING OPEN ISSUE (NEA MAKRI/DCS) CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVED WITHOUT OFFERING ADDITIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNDING. IN THIS CONNECTION, SHOULD GREEKS BALK AT OUR NEA MAKRI/DCS PROPOSALS, YOU SHOULD IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 5 OF STATE 144217 SEEK WASHINGTON INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER. SUCH INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE PRO-SECRET

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VIDED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IN AN EFFORT TO ENABLE MAINTENANCE OF YOUR PROPOSED TIMETABLE.

2. WE ARE AWARE THAT FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS THE GREEKS PREFER TWO DISTINCT STEPS: (A) INITIALING DOCUMENTS SOME TIME TOWARD THE END OF THIS MONTH ON AN

INFORMAL BASIS, AND (B) A FORMAL, FULL-POWER SIGNING AT SOME FUTURE UNSPECIFIED DATE. OUR PREFERENCE NATURALLY WOULD BE TO COMBINE THE INITIALING AND SIGNING INTO A

SINGLE STEP. WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR EXPLORING THIS SUBJECT WITH BITSIOS TO SEE IF THE GREEKS WOULD MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION. WE WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A SLIGHTLY LONGER PERIOD OF TIME PRIOR TO A SIMULTANEOUS INITIALING AND SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT TO ALLOW THE GREEKS SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETELY REVIEW ALL THE TEXTS.

3. WITH REGARD TO PARA 9 OF ATHENS 6374, WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE AN EXIM LETTER SIMILAR TO THAT FURNISHED TURKEY AT THE TIME OF THE FORMAL SIGNING OF THE US-TURKISH DCA. SHOULD THE GREEKS RAISE THIS ISSUE DURING THE CURRENT ROUND, YOU MAY INFORM THEM THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF SUCH A LETTER IN THE FORMAL, PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED CONCLUDING ROUND OF TALKS PRIOR TO SIGNING OF THE DCA. THIS LETTER CANNOT, HOWEVER, BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE DCA DOCUMENT PACKAGE.

4. WE HAVE INVESTIGATED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVERTING SOME OF THE FMS CREDIT PORTION OF THE DOLS 700,000,000 IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE. SHOULD THE GREEKS RAISE THIS SUBJECT, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THEM THAT LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY DOES NOT EXIST

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FOR SUCH A CONVERSION.

5. YOU SHOULD INFORM GREEKS OF OUR DESIRE TO HAVE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT PRIOR TO CONVENING OF THE INITIALING ROUND, AND WE WOULD WELCOME EARLY RECEIPT OF GREEK DRAFT COMMUNIQUE FORESEEN IN PARA 2 OF ATHENS 5686.

6. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON YOUR JUDGMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS WE MOVE TO CONCLUDE THE TALKS. THE PROGRESS YOU AND YOUR ABLE NEGOTIATING COLLEAGUES HAVE MADE IS TO BE COMMENDED. WE STAND READY TO LEND ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE AS WE MAKE THE FINAL PUSH TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS. VANCE

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